THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" They are Government servants. There is no discrimination. We do not treat them partially because they are employed in the district of Malabar. Therefore, I am not prepared to answer any further questions."

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM :—" May I know whether the delay in the payment of arrears of increment to the teachers working under the Harijan Welfare Department is due to the indifference shown in this matter by the Harijan Welfare Officer in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir. Malabar is a vast area and one officer has got to tour the entire district and he has not been provided with a jeep for that purpose. In addition to executive work, he has got also to see that his office is maintained properly. Some delay is naturally involved in the matter of sanctioning arrears of increment."

Mathil-Eraman road

* 923 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the road from Mathil to Eraman in Payyanur firka, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar ; and

(*b*) when the construction of the road will be completed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The work of formation of the road from Mathil to Eramam has already been taken up under the National Extension Service Scheme at a cost of Rs. 3,350 and is in progress.

" (*b*) The construction of the road is expected to be completed by the end of February 1955."

Scholarships to students of backward classes

* 924 *Q.*—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications for scholarships were received by the Director of Harijan Welfare, Madras, from the students belonging to the backward communities in 1954 ;

(*b*) how many were granted ;

(*c*) how many were rejected and the reasons for the rejection ;

(*d*) the total amount paid to the students of backward communities ; and

(*e*) the percentage of this amount to the total allotment made for the purpose?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) 7,963 applications for fresh scholarships and 1,926 applications for renewal of scholarships were received.